



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

***Raised Bill No. 1121***

LCO No. 4570

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARTER OAK HEALTH PLAN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17b-311 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2009*):

4 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall determine minimum  
5 requirements on the amount, duration and scope of benefits under the  
6 Charter Oak Health Plan, except that there shall be no preexisting  
7 condition exclusion. The commissioner shall ensure that the plan  
8 includes comprehensive coverage for mental health services consistent  
9 with the provisions of section 38a-514. Each participating insurer shall  
10 provide (1) an internal grievance process by which an insured may  
11 request and be provided a review of a denial of coverage under the  
12 plan consistent with the provisions of section 38a-226c, and (2) access  
13 to an external appeal process consistent with the provisions of section  
14 38a-478n. Each participating insurer shall comply with the notification  
15 and other requirements of the external appeal process.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22h of the general statutes is  
17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
18 *1, 2009*):

19 (a) The Commissioners of Social Services and Children and Families  
20 shall develop and implement an integrated behavioral health service  
21 system for HUSKY Part A and HUSKY Part B members, Charter Oak  
22 Health Plan members, children enrolled in the voluntary services  
23 program operated by the Department of Children and Families and  
24 may, at the discretion of the Commissioners of Children and Families  
25 and Social Services, include other children, adolescents and families  
26 served by the Department of Children and Families, which shall be  
27 known as the Behavioral Health Partnership. The Behavioral Health  
28 Partnership shall seek to increase access to quality behavioral health  
29 services through: (1) Expansion of individualized, family-centered,  
30 community-based services; (2) maximization of federal revenue to  
31 fund behavioral health services; (3) reduction in the unnecessary use of  
32 institutional and residential services for children; (4) capture and  
33 investment of enhanced federal revenue and savings derived from  
34 reduced residential services and increased community-based services;  
35 (5) improved administrative oversight and efficiencies; and (6)  
36 monitoring of individual outcomes, provider performance, taking into  
37 consideration the acuity of the patients served by each provider, and  
38 overall program performance.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 17a-22j of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
41 *1, 2009*):

42 (f) The council shall make specific recommendations on matters  
43 related to the planning and implementation of the Behavioral Health  
44 Partnership which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Review of  
45 any contract entered into by the Departments of Children and Families  
46 and Social Services with an administrative services organization, to  
47 assure that the administrative services organization's decisions are

48 based solely on clinical management criteria developed by the clinical  
49 management committee established in section 17a-22k; (2) review of  
50 behavioral health services pursuant to Title XIX and Title XXI of the  
51 Social Security Act to assure that federal revenue is being maximized;  
52 (3) review of behavioral health services available under the Charter  
53 Oak Health Plan; and [(3)] (4) review of periodic reports on the  
54 program activities, finances and outcomes, including reports from the  
55 director of the Behavioral Health Partnership on achievement of  
56 service delivery system goals, pursuant to section 17a-22i. The council  
57 may conduct or cause to be conducted an external, independent  
58 evaluation of the Behavioral Health Partnership.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17b-311(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22h(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22j(f)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To ensure that the Charter Oak Health Plan offers mental health coverage that is consistent with the state's mental health parity law and to include the Charter Oak Health Plan as a component of the Behavioral Health Partnership.